

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH    November 22, 2005**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at**

**7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, Frank Maher, and William Munroe. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; was absent. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo, and Student Representative Emily DeCristofano were present.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – Member Clay commented that at the last meeting he requested an item regarding the substitute teacher hired to service a specific Special Education student be placed on tonight's agenda, as indicated in the meeting minutes; however, the item is not on the agenda. He asked for reassurance that this item will be included on the next agenda.**

**Chair DeSack apologized for the oversight and assured Member Clay the item will be on the next agenda.**

**PRESENTATION – School Committee Apple Recognition Award – Gwynne Millar – 2nd Place FFA National Agriscience Teacher of the Year – Superintendent Seitsinger asked Ms. Millar to come forward and recognized her as EWG Sr. High FFA advisor and teacher and explained she recently placed 2nd in the FFA National Agriscience Teacher of the Year competition.**

**Ms. Millar spoke briefly and gave an overview of the application/competition process.**

**On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack offered congratulations to Ms. Millar and presented her with a small recognition award.**

**Student Member Report – Emily DeCristofano gave an overview of various student activities. Once again, she voiced her concerns regarding meal prices in the cafeteria not being comparatively priced for the portions offered for various meals. She said that she feels meal prices are too expensive.**

**Member Maher explained the Food Service Sub Committee and the School Health & Wellness Sub Committee are in the process of**

merging and he will have the committees look at the quantity and price issue.

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**Chair DeSack invited Emily to sit on the Food Service Sub Committee and Emily accepted.**

**After a brief discussion regarding this matter, consensus was to have the food service sub committee examine the school lunch meal price and to place this item on the next agenda for further discussion.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

**Member Clay requested consent agenda items A. Minutes – Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2005, B. Personnel Items, 1 Appointments, b. Request to hire 1.0 FTE Student Information Systems Technician, and E. Bid Award – 06-01 Multi-Media Jr. – Sr. High School Library be pulled from the consent agenda.**

**Member McFadden referenced the November 8, 2005 Executive Session minutes and requested, going forward, attendees be listed on the Executive Session minutes.**

**Chair DeSack pointed out that attendees were indeed listed on the**

## **November 8, 2005 Executive Session minutes.**

**Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda with items A. Executive Session minutes of November 8, 2005, B. Personnel Items, 1 Appointments, b. Request to hire 1.0 FTE Student Information Systems Technician, and E. Bid Award – 06-01 Multi-Media Jr. – Sr. High School Library pulled. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

### **A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of November 8, 2005**

### **B. Personnel Items**

#### **1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**

- a. Deborah St. Pierre as .67 FTE, 2nd Semester, High School English Teacher, Step 1, Salary \$ 22,376.00, effective January 30, 2006**

#### **2. Leaves of Absence**

#### **3. Resignations**

#### **4. Grievances**

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**C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 450,992.81**

**D. Home School Approvals**

**Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.**

**F. Correspondence – (1) RI School Performance & Accountability System November 2005 School Performance Classifications, (2) Article from School Bus Fleet \* November 2005, (3) 2006 – 2007 Budget Development Timeline, (4) The RI High School Diploma System Booklet, (5) Copy of Joint Meeting Follow-up Letters sent to Exeter and West Greenwich Town Council Presidents, (6) Copy of Bargain and Sale Deed for the Jr. – Sr. High School, (7) Copy of Draft Letter to Superintendent Seitsinger from Exeter Town Clerk Cheryl Chorney Regarding the District Financial Meeting Time Change, (8) Copy of E-mail to Superintendent Seitsinger from Judy Spremulli Regarding RIASC Newsletter**

**Superintendent Seitsinger referenced correspondence (1) and explained EWG Sr. High School is listed in the report as High Performing & Improving. He then referenced correspondence (7) and explained this letter will be applicable to an item on tonight's agenda (District Financial Meeting – 8PM or 7PM).**

**NEW BUSINESS – High School Sports Booster Club – Member Maher gave an overview of his November 3, 2005 conversation with Booster Club President Marcia Sahagian, regarding her concerns in relation to disbanding the Booster Club. He explained, she also communicated to him her concerns regarding an alleged misunderstanding between the Booster Club and EWG Athletic Director Steve McGrane and Superintendent Seitsinger.**

**Mrs. Sahagian distributed several hand-outs to members for their review and made an opening statement explaining the Booster Club members' concerns and desire to seek a resolution to this issue.**

**There was a lengthy discussion between some members, the Superintendent, and Marcia Sahagian regarding Booster Club assets and access to them, the Booster Club name, the Club's bank balance, the purpose of the Club, a new parents' group that has formed this school year under the Booster Club name, and the funds collected by the new group from the sale of Booster Club assets. There was debate regarding so-called Booster Club assets ultimately belonging to the district and the Booster Club name not being privately owned. Mrs. Sahagian confirmed the group is ready to disband; however, they want to determine where the assets will go. Mrs. Sahagian alleged funds earned by the new group are going directly to the athletic director's budget. Superintendent reported funds earned are not going to the athletic director's budget. Consensus of the committee was to**

allow the Superintendent to resolve the issue. Chair DeSack suggested Mrs. Sahagian contact the new group members and ask them why they do not want to join her group's organization. Mrs. Sahagian confirmed her group is willing to close their books and merge the two groups if the new group is willing to support all sports.

In summary, Chair DeSack told Mrs. Sahagian the committee will defer this issue to the Superintendent's discretion; his decision will finalize this matter.

**8th Grade Quebec Trip Proposal – Member Clay moved to table the approval of the 8th Grade Quebec Trip Proposal to the next School Committee Meeting on December 6, 2005. Second by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.**

**EWG Sports 4 Kids – Track Project – Grant Application – Parent volunteer/EWG Sports 4 Kids President Sharon Pelsner distributed information to members and gave an overview of the organization's efforts in fundraising for the Track Project. She reported the organization has been in existence for 2-years and through fundraising and donations has raised \$73,000 to date. She explained in order to reach their goal of \$600,000; EWG Sports 4 Kids will need to begin to seek grant monies, as fundraising revenue is not enough and will take too long. She introduced parent volunteer Rob Correia**

who gave a summary of the Department of Environmental Management grant the group is interested in applying for. He explained the DEM grant will award as much as \$300,000; however DEM does not award money to school districts, as DEM awards grants to community accessible land. Mr. Correia explained the land could be deeded to the town of West Greenwich – a municipality. Mr. Correia reported the DEM grant application deadline is January 20, 2006. He then introduced Exeter resident Mr. Rothenberg who is the Director of Track & Field at Brown University. Mr. Rothenberg gave an outline of how he became involved in the track project and expressed his views of how beneficial a track will be to the school district and the community.

Some School Committee members, EWG Sports 4 Kids members, and Attorney Nick Gorham discussed ownership of the property and the legalities of deeding an easement to the town of West Greenwich. Consensus of the committee was to have Attorney Gorham investigate this issue and report back to the committee with available options.

Superintendent Seitsinger called attention to the need for the School Committee to formally define its relationship with EWG Sports 4 Kids.

There was a brief discussion regarding EWG Sports 4 Kids' mission and purpose. Chair DeSack asked Mrs. Pelser to submit a single statement of purpose on behalf of EWG Sports 4 Kids to the School Committee and asked her to submit it to the committee for the

**December 6, 2005 meeting.**

**Military Recruitment and Parent Notification Form – Superintendent Seitsinger gave details about the military recruitment parent notification form/practice used at the high school. He reported he received a letter today from RI Department of Education’s**

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**Commissioner McWalters supporting the district’s process and a recommendation of a specific parent notification form to use. Superintendent Seitsinger supported using the recommended notification form.**

**Members discussed issuing parent notification forms that will require parents to respond regardless of their decision - as a means to verify parents are indeed receiving notification, sending forms through certified mail, phone calls home, and writing a policy to address this issue. Chair DeSack communicated this is a once-a-year process and the committee wants acknowledgement of receipt from parents.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger said the intent of the law was passive consent and the district can develop a policy to extend or enhance that. He would like to use the form recommended by Commissioner McWalters, reissue the form to the junior and senior class parents, await their response, and at that point - make an assessment.**

**Member McFadden reiterated his desire to have the district policy include a process to make a second attempt to contact parents/guardians that do not return acknowledgement forms.**

**Bond Discussion – Chair DeSack reminded members this item was discussed at the previous joint meeting and referenced an enclosure from Director of Administration Robert Ross; calling it a high level look at what repairs administration feels may need to be addressed.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger explained the enclosure was an estimate and not a specific walk through assessment with regards to cost. He said to get an accurate estimate the district would have to acquire experts to assess the facilities.**

**Mr. Ross referenced his enclosed Bond Schedule and Estimate of District Repairs for Future Bond Purposes memo, and gave an overview of its data. He reminded members a detailed walk through has not been done and this data reflects a high level view.**

**Chair DeSack voiced her opinion that should the committee attempt to take action concerning this matter; now is the time to do so. She explained this information was provided for members information, as it will be a matter discussed at the joint meeting scheduled for December 14, 2005.**

**Members and Mr. Ross had a brief discussion regarding some repair items listed in the schedule, particularly Lineham's roof.**

**School Health & Wellness Sub Committee Parent Representative – Member Maher reported he and Clerk Coutcher have contacted parents within their communities. Member Maher said he contacted an Exeter parent who is a physician and Clerk Coutcher**

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**contacted a West Greenwich parent who is a physician. They are now in the process of providing these parents with information and will let the committee know when to add this item to the agenda again.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Patriotic Holiday Observation Policy #8150 – Adoption- Member Clay moved to adopt Patriotic Holiday Observation Policy #8150. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**District Financial Meeting – 8PM or 7PM – Superintendent Seitsinger referred to a draft letter received from Exeter Town Clerk Cheryl Chorney that confirms the Exeter Town Council fully supports the efforts of the district's proposal to change the time of the District Financial Meeting from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He explained the formal correspondence is currently in the mail.**

**Member Clay emphasized the need to follow up with West Greenwich**

**Town Council regarding this matter. Clerk Coutcher agreed to do so and said he doesn't believe West Greenwich Town Council will have any objections.**

**2004-2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Superintendent Seitsinger reported this matter went before a judge on November 21, 2005 and no decision was made, as the judge requested additional information.**

**Attorney Nick Gorham gave an overview of the hearing and reported he moved for summary judgment, the town of Exeter moved for a counter summary judgment, the judge expressed concern that Exeter was turning the educational formula upside down. The judge asked for Amicus Briefs, (Friend of the Court), briefs from interested parties.**

**Attorney Gorham said he expects the process to move quickly and that the issue should be resolved on the basis of the district's charter, which is clear.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger reported the Superintendents of the State of RI will be considering filing a brief in favor of the committees' actions.**

**Chair DeSack talked about Chariho Regional School District and whether it would be helpful to get the regional school districts' opinions.**

**Attorney Gorham predicted a decision should be made soon, but**

**because of the holidays will probably take more than one month.**

**Liability Insurance & Building Protection Insurance – Update – Members and Director of Administration Robert Ross discussed the district's insurance policies, coverage expenses, replacement-structure/content values, and in particular, the replacement costs and possible increase of coverage for the Jr. – Sr. High School.**

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**Member McFadden moved to change the Jr. – Sr. High School insurance value from 19,000,000 to 29,000,000.**

**After discussing the matter further, consensus was to have Mr. Ross provide data at the next meeting concerning building protection insurance increase costs effective January 1, 2006 and liability insurance increase (umbrella) cost.**

**Chair DeSack reviewed the listed important dates and meetings.**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – November 24 & 25-Thanksgiving Recess,**

**November 28, 2005-Administration Draft Budget to Director of Administration,**

**December 6, 2005 – School Committee Meeting, December 14, 2005 – Proposed**

**School Committee/Town Council Joint Meeting, January 10, 2005 – School**

**Committee Meeting, January 10, 2005 – 1st Draft of Budget**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to items pulled from the consent agenda.**

**Member Clay explained he had requested consent agenda item A. Minutes – Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2005, be pulled from the consent agenda – and moved to seal the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2005. Seconded by Chair DeSack. Discussion: Member McFadden asked why? Member Clay asked Member McFadden to “look at them”. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Member Clay explained he had requested consent agenda item B. Personnel Items, 1 Appointments, b. Request to hire 1.0 FTE Student Information Systems Technician, be pulled from the consent agenda – and moved that Administration be authorized to fill the SIS position from a transfer within and not be authorized to fill the vacancy that will occur as a result of such transfer at this time. Discussion: Mr. Ross and members discussed the definite need for this position in the district, the fact that based on Member Clay’s motion – the district would not be adding a new FTE at this time, and the bumping process that will occur as a result of this development. Member Clay repeated**

**his motion –that Administration be authorized to fill the SIS position from a transfer within and not be authorized to fill the vacancy that will occur as a result of such transfer at this time. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Member Clay explained he requested consent agenda item E. Bid Award – 06-01 Multi-Media Jr. – Sr. High School Library be pulled from the consent agenda – and asked if**

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**this item was in the budget. Mr. Ross confirmed it was in the budget. Member Clay moved to approve the Bid Award – 06001 Multi-Media Jr. – Sr. High School Library award. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding collective bargaining agreement. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:05 p.m.**

**Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 10:05 p.m.**

**She announced a vote had been taken in Executive Session to deny grievance presented. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Adjournment – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 10:06 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 - 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**